

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 183761
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 HA-05 EB-08 CA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 /080 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:SFROMOWITZ:MEG
APPROVED BY EUR:GSVEST
EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
COMMERCE/BEWT

-----128168 210211Z /64

R 201904Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183761

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, EGEN, RO

SUBJECT: JULY 19 CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST BY
AMBASSADOR NICOLAE

1. SUMMARY - AMBASSADOR NICOLAE, ON HIS INITIATIVE,
CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST ON JULY 19 AND DISCUS-
SED THE RECENT SENATE HEARINGS ON ROMANIAN MFN. HE
COMPLAINED THAT ISSUES UNRELATED TO THE JACKSON/VANIK AMEND-
MENT OR US/ROMANIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS HAD BEEN RAISED AND
THAT THIS COULD HARM OUR RELATIONS. JACKSON'S TESTIMONY
WAS CITED WITH SATISFACTION. NICOLAE ALSO PROVIDED INFOR-
MATION ON FOREIGN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ROMANIAN CHURCHES
IN AN EFFORT TO REBUTT CHARGES MADE AT THE HEARINGS THAT
GOR HAD INTERFERRED WITH EFFORTS BY RELIGIOUS GROUPS TO
ASSIST IN RECONSTRUCTION OF EARTHQUAKE-DAMAGED CHURCHES.
ON MULTI-YEAR MFN, NICOLAE PRESSED FORCEFULLY FOR ACTION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 183761

THIS YEAR BY ADMINISTRATION, BUT VEST RESPONDED THAT
THERE WAS NO PROSPECT FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF SUCH
AN INITIATIVE AT THE PRESENT TIME. VEST ALSO MENTIONED
HIS INTEREST IN FOLLOWING-UP ROMANIAN CONCERNS ABOUT US
EXPORT CONTROLS. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR NICOLAE, JUST BACK FROM SEVERAL WEEKS IN

BUCHAREST, BEGAN BY EXPRESSING HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESENTATION WHICH ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST HAD MADE IN SUPPORT OF ROMANIAN MFN AT THE SENATE HEARINGS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT ROMANIAN OFFICIALS IN BUCHAREST HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH SENATOR JACKSON'S STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION. VEST NOTED THAT HE HAD JUST SPOKEN WITH SENATOR JACKSON AND JACKSON'S AIDE, MS. DOROTHY FOSDICK, AND THAT THE SENATOR HAD REITERATED HIS APPRECIATION FOR ROMANIA'S INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY. JACKSON TOLD VEST THAT HE HAD WISHED TO MAKE HIS POSITION ON ROMANIA PERFECTLY CLEAR AND THUS HAD PERSONALLY DECIDED TO APPEAR AT THE SENATE HEARINGS. AT THE SAME TIME, VEST SAID, MS. FOSDICK HAD POINTED OUT TO VEST THAT GOR SHOULD BE MINDFUL THAT SENATOR JACKSON STANDS FOR FREEDOM OF EMIGRATION AND THAT THEREFORE ROMANIA SHOULD NOT PUT TOO BIG A STRAIN ON THE SENATOR'S SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED MFN BY FAILING TO MOVE AHEAD PROMPTLY WITH EMIGRATION -- INCLUDING JEWISH EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL -- AND DIVIDED FAMILY CASES. VEST TOLD NICOLAE THAT HE HAD RESPONDED TO FOSDICK BY POINTING OUT THAT ROMANIA APPEARED TO BE PRAGMATIC IN ITS APPROACH, THAT IT TOOK VERY SERIOUSLY THE NEED TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ITS EMIGRATION PERFORMANCE, AND THAT THE RECORD HAD DEMONSTRATED THAT PRIVATE, QUIET DIPLOMACY WAS MORE EFFECTIVE WITH ROMANIA THAN PUBLIC HARANGUES. NICOLAE RESPONDED THAT HE, TOO, HAD CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 183761

BEEN IN RECENT TOUCH WITH BOTH SENATOR JACKSON AND MS. FOSDICK. HE HAD FOUND MS. FOSDICK HELPFUL AND INTERESTED IN A PRACTICAL RESOLUTION OF CASES, AND THE GOR HAD BEEN ABLE TO SOLVE ALMOST ALL OF THE CASES IN WHICH SENATOR JACKSON'S OFFICE HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST. IN THIS CONTEXT, NICOLAE STRESSED HOW DEEPLY INVOLVED HE WAS IN EMIGRATION MATTERS: "IT IS MY JOB HERE." NICOLAE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE GOR HAD SOLVED MANY CASES WITHOUT ANY EXPRESSION OF CONGRESSIONAL OR OTHER OUTSIDE INTEREST: FOR EXAMPLE, OF APPROXIMATELY 1400 APPROVALS LAST YEAR FOR EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL, ONLY ABOUT 450 INVOLVED OUTSIDE INTERVENTION.

3. NICOLAE THEN TURNED TO THE QUESTION OF POST-EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO ROMANIAN RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND CHURCHES, WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN RAISED AT THE HEARINGS BY VARIOUS HUNGARIAN WITNESSES. HAVING RECEIVED A REPORT IN BUCHAREST FROM HIS EMBASSY, NICOLAE SAID HE PERSONALLY MET WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTS TO REVIEW THE RECORD. NICOLAE POINTED OUT THAT FIRST OF ALL THERE HAD BEEN NO EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE IN TRANSYLVANIA. MOREOVER, HE SAID, GOR HAD NOT INTERFERED WITH EFFORTS BY FOREIGN RELIGIOUS GROUPS TO SUPPLY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE,

AND THIS AID WAS BEING USED FOR RECONSTRUCTION PURPOSES.
HE SAID THAT THERE WERE PRINCIPALLY FOUR CHURCHES INVOLVED

IN THE HUNGARIAN AND GERMAN MINORITY AREAS. THE REFORMED CHURCH HAD RECEIVED ABOUT \$75,000 AND THESE FUNDS WERE IN AN ACCOUNT FOR EXCLUSIVE USE BY THE CHURCH, WHICH HAD ALREADY BEGUN THE REBUILDING OF SOME CHURCHES. THE UNITARIAN CHURCH HAD RECEIVED ABOUT \$9,000 (PARTICULARLY FROM THE FRG). CATHOLIC GROUPS (AGAIN MAINLY IN WEST GERMANY) HAD SENT ABOUT \$300,000 TO THE ROMANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, AND SEVERAL OF ITS CHURCHES IN BUCHAREST HAVE ALREADY HAD REPAIRS INITIATED WITH THESE FUNDS. THE FOURTH CHURCH IN THIS CATEGORY, THE EVANGELICAL, HAD RECEIVED ABOUT \$130,000. AS FURTHER EXAMPLES OF ROMANIAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 183761

COOPERATION WITH SUCH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO RELIGIOUS GROUPS, NICOLAE NOTED THAT THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS HAD RECEIVED \$50,000 (WHICH HE PERSONALLY HAD RECEIVED AND TRANSMITTED TO ROMANIA) AND WORLD-WIDE JEWISH GROUPS HAD PROVIDED ABOUT \$100,000. IN RESPONSE TO VEST'S QUERY, NICOLAE ASSURED HIM THAT THESE GROUPS WERE NOT BEING HINDERED IN RECEIVING APPROVAL TO BUILD CHURCHES BASED ON THESE FUNDS. VEST SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD PASS THIS INFORMATION TO SENATOR RIBICOFF'S STAFF AND AT THE SAME TIME WOULD SEE WHETHER THE SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS WHICH SENATOR RIBICOFF HAD ASKED THE WITNESSES TO PROVIDE FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN RECEIVED. (COMMENT. SENATE STAFF INDICATED THAT DOCUMENTED COMPLAINTS HAD NOT BEEN RECEIVED AS OF JULY 19.)

4. NICOLAE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AND CONCERN THAT SEVERAL ISSUES HAD BEEN RAISED DURING THE HEARINGS WHICH WERE UNRELATED TO EITHER US-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS OR THE JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT. IRRELEVANT ALLEGATIONS WERE MADE WHICH COULD DAMAGE OUR RELATIONS AND PUT ROMANIAN POLICY IN A BAD LIGHT. THIS HAD BEEN NOTED WITH DISPLEASURE IN BUCHAREST. VEST NOTED THAT IN OUR CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, WITNESSES CAN APPEAR TO MAKE WHATEVER ALLEGATIONS THEY WISH.

5. IN A SIDE COMMENT ON THE EMIGRATION ISSUE, NICOLAE NOTED THAT HE EXPECTED IT TO SOLVE ITSELF AS ROMANIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPROVES. RIGHT NOW IT WAS IMPERATIVE TO FIND REPLACEMENTS FOR THOSE WHO WISHED TO LEAVE, AND THAT THEREFORE DELAYS WERE INEVITABLE. NICOLAE ALSO REFERRED TO AN EXCHANGE OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS BETWEEN ROMANIA AND THE UNITED STATES WHICH RABBI SCHNEIER WAS ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT WITH ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 183761

6. NICOLAE THEN BROACHED THE ISSUE OF MULTI-YEAR MFN. HE INDICATED THAT ON THE BASIS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS HE ESTIMATED THAT, ALTHOUGH FINAL ACTION ON AN AMENDMENT TO THE TRADE ACT DID NOT SEEM

POSSIBLE THIS YEAR, IF THE APPROPRIATE INITIATIVES WERE TAKEN NOW IT COULD BE DONE IN 1979. HE SAID THAT SENATOR RIBICOFF HAD EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO WORK FOR AN AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD KEEP JACKSON-VANIK IN PLACE BUT ALLOW FOR MULTI-YEAR MFN FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAD GONE THROUGH THREE YEARS OF THE ANNUAL WAIVER PROCESS. NICOLAE ALSO CLAIMED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS WITH JACKSON, WHO EXPRESSED AWARENESS OF RIBICOFF'S PROPOSAL AND AGREEMENT WITH IT. NICOLAE THEN ASKED FOR VEST'S REACTION. VEST SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE STRONG ROMANIAN INTEREST IN MULTI-YEAR MFN -- HAVING HEARD THIS FROM EACH OF HIS HOSTS IN BUCHAREST -- HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE TIME WAS RIGHT TO PROPOSE ANY INITIATIVE IN AMENDING JACKSON-VANIK. NICOLAE NEVERTHELESS PRESSED HARD AND ARGUED THAT UNLESS PREPARATIONS ARE MADE NOW, NOTHING COULD BE DONE EVEN NEXT YEAR. IT WAS, HE SUGGESTED, UP TO THE ADMINISTRATION TO INITIATE ACTION NOW ON THE HILL. VEST DEMURRED AND POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO HAVE THE INTEREST OF ONLY SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS; A DECISION TO TAKE AN INITIATIVE ON THE HILL HAD TO BE BASED ON A SOUND JUDGMENT THAT THERE WAS SUFFICIENTLY EXTENSIVE SUPPORT IN CONGRESS AT THIS TIME. NEVERTHELESS, VEST ASSURED NICOLAE THAT HE HAD COME BACK FROM BUCHAREST DETERMINED TO EXPLORE SOLUTIONS TO THE QUESTION OF MULTI-YEAR MFN.

7. VEST SAID THAT THE OTHER SUBJECT WHICH HE WAS DETERMINED TO PURSUE, FOLLOWING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH ROMANIAN OFFICIALS, WAS EXPORT CONTROLS. VEST SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH DR. BRZEZINSKI ON HIS WAY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 183761

BACK FROM THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT AND HAD URGED THAT WE MAKE SURE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO HANDLE EXPORT LICENSES EFFICIENTLY AND WITHOUT ARTIFICIAL DELAYS IS BEING CARRIED OUT. NICOLAE ADDED AS HE WAS LEAVING THAT HE HAD JUST DELIVERED TO THE NSC A LETTER ON THIS SUBJECT FROM PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU TO PRESIDENT CARTER. (COMMENT. TEXT OF LETTER WILL BE CABLED TO EMBASSY.)

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, TRADE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE183761
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SFROMOWITZ:MEG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780299-0397
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780737/aaaabezc.tel
Line Count: 225
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8a57a66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1936584
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JULY 19 CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST BY AMBASSADOR NICOLAE
TAGS: SHUM, EGEN, RO, US
To: BUCHAREST
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8a57a66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014